

**Victorian Certificate of Education  
2020**

# CLASSICAL STUDIES

## Written examination

**Monday 30 November 2020**

**Reading time: 11.45 am to 12.00 noon (15 minutes)**

**Writing time: 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm (2 hours)**

### QUESTION BOOK

#### Structure of book

<i>Section</i>	<i>Number of questions</i>	<i>Number of questions to be answered</i>	<i>Number of marks</i>
A – Individual study	8	2	40
B – Comparative study	8	1	40
			Total 80

- Students are permitted to bring into the examination room: pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers.
- Students are NOT permitted to bring into the examination room: blank sheets of paper and/or correction fluid/tape.
- No calculator is allowed in this examination.

#### Materials supplied

- Question book of 15 pages, including **assessment criteria** for Section B on page 14
- One or more answer books

#### Instructions

- Write your **student number** in the space provided on the front cover(s) of the answer book(s).
- All written responses must be in English.

#### At the end of the examination

- Place all other used answer books inside the front cover of the first answer book.
- You may keep this question book.

**Students are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any other unauthorised electronic devices into the examination room.**

**SECTION A – Individual study****Instructions for Section A**

There are eight questions in Section A. Answer only **two** of these. Each question has three parts. Clearly number your answers in the answer book(s) provided. The mark allocation for each question provides a guide in determining the length of your response. All questions in Section A are worth 20 marks.

**Question 1 (20 marks)****Homer, *The Iliad*, Book 6**

translated by Robert Fagles with an introduction and notes by Bernard Knox, Penguin Classics, 1998

But Menelaus

lord of the war cry had caught Adrestus alive.

[...]

rough justice, fitting too.

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this material is not supplied.

- a. Describe the sociohistorical context of this extract. 4 marks
- b. Identify the techniques used in this extract and explain how they are used to depict Agamemnon and Menelaus. 6 marks
- c. Using evidence, evaluate the significance of this extract to Book 6 as a whole. 10 marks

**Question 2** (20 marks)**Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War***

translated by Rex Warner with an introduction and notes by MI Finley, Penguin Classics, 1972

‘Remember this, and fight it out to the limit of your strength.

[...]

save us all, is the time for him to show it.’

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- a. Using evidence from this extract, describe the tone of this speech. 4 marks
- b. Explain how Thucydides used this speech to critique Nicias’s leadership. 6 marks
- c. Evaluate the significance of speeches to the work as a whole. 10 marks

**Question 3** (20 marks)**Aeschylus, 'Agamemnon'**

from *The Oresteia*, translated by Robert Fagles with an introductory essay, notes and glossary by Robert Fagles and WB Stanford, Penguin Classics, 1977 (reprinted with revisions in 1979)

CASSANDRA:

Aieeeee! –

[...]

You will be moved with pity.

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- a. Describe the circumstances that have led to this speech. 4 marks
- b. Identify the techniques used in this extract and explain how they are used to depict Cassandra. 6 marks
- c. Using evidence, analyse the significance of this extract to the work as a whole. 10 marks

**SECTION A** – continued

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**Question 4** (20 marks)

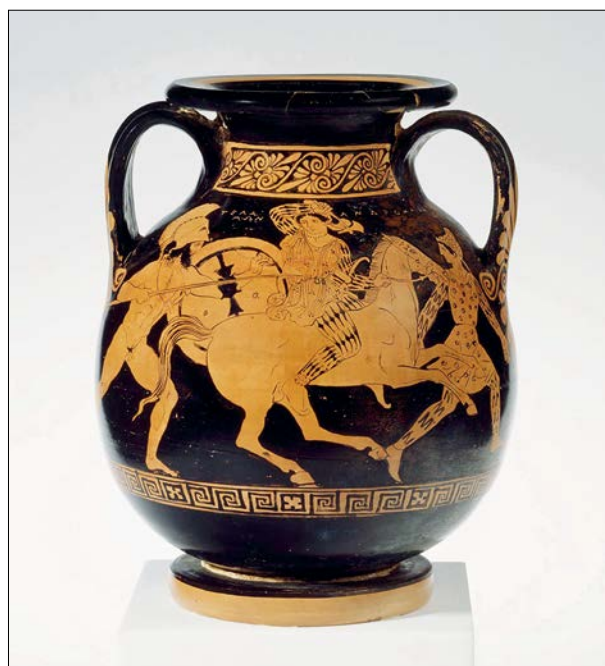
**Greek vases**

**Image A**



Source: National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

**Image B**



Source: National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

- a. Describe the techniques used to create the images on these two vases. 4 marks
- b. Identify the event depicted on each vase in Image A and Image B, and explain the ideas each depiction presents. 6 marks
- c. Analyse the portrayal of frightening figures on Greek vases. Refer to the vases presented in Image A and Image B, and to **two** other vases prescribed for study this year. 10 marks

**Question 5** (20 marks)**Virgil, *The Aeneid*, Book 10**

translated and with an introduction by David West, Penguin Classics, 2003 (revised edition)

As Juno was making her plea [...] escorted him to the threshold.

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- a. Describe the circumstances that led to this scene. 4 marks
- b. Identify the techniques used in this extract and explain how they are used to depict Jupiter. 6 marks
- c. Analyse how Jupiter's decision in this extract has an impact on the events of Book 10. 10 marks



**Question 6** (20 marks)**Cicero, 'On Duties', Book 3**

from *Selected Works*, translated and with an introduction by Michael Grant, Penguin Classics, 1971  
(reprinted with revisions)

Consider the paradox of a person who admits [...] is not right can be of advantage.

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- a. Describe the sociohistorical context of this extract. 4 marks
- b. Identify the techniques used in this extract and explain how they are used to discuss advantage and right. 6 marks
- c. Using evidence, evaluate the significance of this extract to Book 3 as a whole. 10 marks

**Question 7** (20 marks)**Ovid, *Metamorphoses***

translated and with an introduction by Mary M Innes, Penguin Classics, 1955

One day, the nymph Galatea [...] and went unmolested ...'

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- a. Describe the events that led to Galatea's grief and pain. 4 marks
- b. Identify the techniques used in this extract and explain how they are used. 6 marks
- c. Using evidence, evaluate the depiction of Venus in this extract and elsewhere in the work as a whole. 10 marks

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**Question 8 (20 marks)**

**Roman reliefs**

**Image A**



Source: Musei Vaticani

**Image B**



Source: Musei Capitolini

- a. Describe the techniques used to create these reliefs. 4 marks
- b. Identify the activities depicted on each relief in Image A and Image B, and explain the ideas each depiction presents. 6 marks
- c. Analyse the portrayal of Roman life in Roman reliefs. Refer to the reliefs presented in Image A and Image B, and to **two** other reliefs prescribed for study this year. 10 marks

**SECTION B – Comparative study****Instructions for Section B**

Write an essay on **one** of the following questions. All questions in Section B are worth 40 marks. Clearly number your response in the answer book(s) provided.

**Assessment criteria**

The essay will be assessed against all four of the following criteria:

- knowledge of the classical works and their relationships with their sociohistorical contexts
- analysis of the ideas in the classical works
- comparison and evaluation of the ideas in the classical works
- construction of an argument based on relevant evidence

**Question 1** (40 marks)

**Aeschylus, ‘The Persians’ and Herodotus, *The Histories***

‘Each author’s account of the war is limited by his personal experience.’

Evaluate this statement using evidence from both works.

**Question 2** (40 marks)

**Aristophanes, ‘The Clouds’ and Plato, ‘Crito’**

‘Each author explores the morality of argumentation.’

Evaluate this statement using evidence from both works.

**Question 3** (40 marks)

**Sophocles, ‘Antigone’ and Euripides, ‘Electra’**

‘Women pay for the mistakes of men.’

Evaluate this statement using evidence from both works.

**Question 4** (40 marks)

**Cicero, ‘First and Second Catilinarians’ and Sallust, ‘Catiline’s War’**

‘The treatment of Catiline is fair in both works.’

Evaluate this statement using evidence from both works.

**Question 5** (40 marks)

**Livy, *The Rise of Rome* and Tacitus, *The Annals of Imperial Rome***

‘Power and arrogance are always a dangerous combination.’

Evaluate this statement using evidence from both works.

**Question 6** (40 marks)

**Suetonius, ‘Claudius’ and Seneca, ‘Apocolocyntosis’**

‘Claudius embodies both the strength and weakness of the Roman imperial system.’

Evaluate this statement using evidence from both works.

**Question 7** (40 marks)**Pergamon Altar and Trajan's Column**

'Both the Pergamon Altar and Trajan's Column depict the triumph of order over chaos.'

Evaluate this statement using evidence from both works.

**Question 8** (40 marks)**Aristophanes, 'The Acharnians' and Plautus, 'The Swaggering Soldier' ('Miles Gloriosus')**

'Bravery can be found in unexpected places.'

Evaluate this statement using evidence from both works.